

## REMARKS

The Applicants acknowledge that the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement submitted on July 30, 2004 have been considered by the Examiner.

Claims 1-18 and 20-25 are pending in the present application. Claims 5-18 and 20-23 have been allowed. Claims 1-4, 24 and 25 are rejected.<sup>2</sup>

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,934,384 (*Hein*). Specifically, the Examiner asserts that Hein, at col. 3, line 54 through col. 6, line 29 (and Figures 2 and 3), teaches the features of claim 1. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claim 1, among other things, calls for converting the DC component of the signal to a digital signal using the analog-to-digital converter employed to convert the voice component of the signal. Claim 1 further calls for adjusting a DC feed to the subscriber line based on the digital signal.

Hein at least does not teach converting the DC component of the signal to a digital signal using the analog-to-digital converter employed to convert the voice component of the signal. Hein describes that the signal processor 210 of Figure 2 includes a digital interface for digitizing voiceband data. Hein, col. 4, lines 4-6. A few lines later, Hein describes that the “digital interface” is a “codec” that performs the voiceband digitization. *Id.* at col. 4, lines 16-20. Indeed, the remainder of the Hein reference reinforces the point that voiceband data digitization is performed by the “codec.” *Id.* at col. 8, lines 18-22 (describing a “codec” for “bidirectional communication of voiceband data between the analog subscriber loop and a digital interface of

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<sup>2</sup> After acknowledging that claim 23 is allowed (see p. 3 of the Office Action), the Examiner inadvertently appears to state that claim 23 is also rejected on page 3 of the Office Action. The Applicants respectfully bring this apparent inconsistency to the Examiner’s attention.

the signal processor”). While Hein describes that the codec digitizes voiceband data, it does not teach that this codec also converts the DC component of the signal to a digital signal. In contrast, claim 1 calls for converting the DC component of the signal to a digital signal using the analog-to-digital converter employed to convert the voice component of the signal. For at least the foregoing reason, claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable. Furthermore, Claim 24 and 25 are also allowable for at least one or more of the reasons presented above.

Hein does describe that the “digital interface” signal includes a “processor interface 214” (see Figure 2) to “enable programmatic or dynamic control” of various subscriber loop control parameters, including battery feed state control. *Id.* at col. 4, lines 9-16. However, this passage simply describes that these control parameters, such as battery feed state control, can be “dynamically” controlled. It does not suggest or describe (1) receiving a DC component; (2) converting the DC component a digital signal using an A/D; and (3) where that A/D converter is also used to covert the voice component. In fact, according to Hein, the processor interface 214 (which processes the “battery feed state control”) is different from the “codec” (which digitizes the voiceband data). Specifically, Hein describes that the process interface 214 provides for “dynamic” control of loop parameters, whereas the “codec” digitizes the voiceband data. *Id.* col. 4, lines 7-15; col. 4, lines 16-20. Thus, Hein neither discloses nor suggests that the codec that processes the voiceband data also digitizes the received DC component. In fact, there is nothing in Hein that suggests or describes that any of the “control” signals (such as battery feed, ringing signals, etc.) are even converted to digital form by the signal processor 210, much less converted using the same A-D converter that was used for a voice component. To the contrary, Hein expressly describes that the linefeed driver 220 “maintains responsibility for battery feed to tip 280 and ring 290” of the subscriber loop. *Id.* at 4:24-25. The linefeed driver 220 (as shown in

Figures 2-3) does not convert any DC component to digital signal, and nothing in Hein suggests or describes that any of the other components convert the DC component to digital form. For at least these reasons, Hein does not anticipate any of the claims.

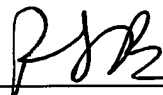
In view of reasons present above, the pending claims are allowable. As such, reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Houston, Texas telephone number (713) 934-4064 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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